image

SKYBOUND

4

$3.50

GUARDING THE GLOBE

KIRKMAN • CERENO • GETTY

image

SKYBOUND

4

$3.50

VARIANT COVER

GUARDING THE GLOBE™

KIRKMAN • CERENO • GETTY

GUARDING THE GLOBE

ROBERT KIRKMAN & BENITO CERENO WRITERS
RANSOM GETTY PENCILS
RUSSELL JACKSON INKS
THOMAS MASON COLORS
REX STABBS COLOR ASSISTS
RUS WOOTON LETTERER
SINA GRACE EDITOR

COVER A: RANSOM GETTY PENCILS & INKS FCO PLASCENCIA COLORS
COVER B: RANSOM GETTY PENCILS & INKS FCO PLASCENCIA COLORS

CREATED BY: ROBERT KIRKMAN, CORY WALKER, AND RYAN OTTLEY

IMAGE COMICS, INC.

Robert Kirkman - chief operating officer
Erik Larsen - chief financial officer
Todd McFarlane - president
Marc Silvestri - chief executive officer
Jim Valentino - vice-president

Eric Stephenson - publisher
Todd Martinez - sales & licensing coordinator
Sarah deLaine - pr & marketing coordinator
Branwyn Bigglestone - accounts manager
Emily Miller - administrative assistant
Tyler Shainline - production manager
Drew Gill - art director
Jonathan Chan - senior production artist
Monica Howard - production artist
Vincent Kukua - production artist
Kevin Yuen - production artist
Jana Cook - production artist

www.imagecomics.com

For SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT

Robert Kirkman - CEO
J.J. Didde - President
Sina Grace - Editorial Director
Chad Manion - Assistant to Mr. Grace
Tim Daniel - Digital Content Manager

WWW.SKYBOUNDENT.COM

GUARDING THE GLOBE #4. March 2011. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 2134 Allston Way, 2nd Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704.

Copyright © 2011 Robert Kirkman, Cory Walker, and Ryan Ottley. All rights reserved. GUARDING THE GLOBE™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman, Cory Walker, and Ryan Ottley unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks and copyrights of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. Printed in the USA. For information regarding the CPSIA on this printed material call: 203-595-3636 and provide reference # EAST – 999999

CITIZENS OF THE WORLD, I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. I WILL MAKE MY MESSAGE BRIEF.

AS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE, I KNOW THAT THE WORLD IS SOMETIMES A VERY DANGEROUS PLACE, AND WE HAVE NOT ALWAYS BEEN THERE FOR YOU.

THAT IS WHY I'VE COME BEFORE YOU TODAY TO REPORT THAT THE GUARDIANS ARE EXPANDING OUR ROSTER AND OUR REACH. WE'LL BE STATIONED IN ALL CORNERS OF THE GLOBE IN NEW SATELLITE BASES PLACED IN STRATEGIC LOCATIONS WORLDWIDE.

THIS EXPANSION SHOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO RESPOND TO ALL MANNER OF THREATS IN A MUCH MORE TIMELY FASHION.

AT THIS TIME, I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE FIRST ROUND OF NEW RECRUITS THAT WE'VE GATHERED.

CAST IRON, FROM YUGOSLAVIA.

KABOOMERANG, FROM AUSTRALIA.

OUTRUN, FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

EL CHUPACABRA, FROM MEXICO.

YETI, FROM NEPAL.

PEGASUS, FROM RUSSIA.

KID THOR, FROM CANADA.

LE BRUSIER, FROM FRANCE.

JAPANDROID, FROM JAPAN.

AND KNOCKOUT, FROM THE UNITED STATES.

AGAIN, I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. OUR REPRESENTATIVE DONALD FERGUSON WILL ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME... UH... I'VE GOT A GLOBE TO GUARD.

REALLY? I'M THE PUBLIC FACE OF THIS WHOLE ORGANIZATION?

YOU'RE A FOUNDING MEMBER, THAT HOLDS A LOT OF WEIGHT. AND YOU DID *GOOD* UP THERE.

I ALMOST READ THE CARD WRONG. WASN'T THERE SUPPOSED TO BE ANOTHER ONE? FROM CHINA? WHAT WAS HIS NAME?

I WAS TOLD BEFORE THE PRESS CONFERENCE STARTED THAT BULLETPROOF WAS HAVING TROUBLE LOCATING HIM. HIS NAME WAS SOMETHING *WEIRD*...

BEST TIGER!

I'VE BEEN COUNTING YOUR BULLETS AND I KNOW WITH ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY THAT YOU ARE DOWN TO YOUR LAST AND FINAL ROUND.

YOU HAVE NO HOPE TO DEFEAT US.

PREPARE TO DIE!

ONE IS ENOUGH.

BLAM!

YEAAGH!

SPAK!

PING!

SPAK!

PING!

SPAK!

SPAK!

SHLAKK!

CLANK!

YOU WILL BLEED OUT IN *ONE HOUR.*

POLICE ARE *MINUTES* AWAY.

BEST TIGER! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU. I STOPPED AT YOUR LAIR, AND YOUR ASSISTANT SAID YOU WERE IN THIS AREA.

I THINK WE'VE MISSED THE PRESS CONFERENCE... BUT... *WOW...* I SAW MOST OF THIS FROM A DISTANCE AND...

DID YOU JUST TAKE ALL THESE GUYS DOWN WITH ONE BULLET?

AND, CRAP... I READ YOUR FILE, I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE BLIND!

NOT BLIND.

BUT WHY DO YOU WEAR THE, *UH...*

MORE CHALLENGE.

THE UNDERWATER HEADQUARTERS OF THE ORDER.

WE HAVE CONFIRMATION FROM ALL MEMBERS. THEY ARE IN PLACE AND AWAITING YOUR COMMAND.

EVERYTHING HAS GONE EXACTLY AS YOU PLANNED, A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE GUARDIANS HAS BEEN MADE... AS YOU DIRECTED, WE ARE READY TO MAKE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR OWN.

WHEN WOULD YOU LIKE THEM TO COMMENCE?

NOW...

...THE TIME IS *NOW.*

CHICAGO.

THAT'S IT--LIKE THAT! I'VE GOT THIS ONE, YOU JUST WORRY ABOUT *TITAN!*

LONDON.

I WILL *MURDER* EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!

NO ONE IS SAFE FROM *THE WALKING DREAD!*

WISH ME LUCK...

YOU KNOW I'VE GOT YOUR BACK.

MADRID.

MANTIS STING!

VWOPP!!

SYDNEY.

YOU AM NO DEFEAT, THIS TIME!

I CAN--SEE THAT!

CAIRO.

I'M THINKING, ALL DAY, EVERY DAY! EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY DAY!

I'M THE INSOMNIAC! *I NEVER SLEEP!*

I HAVE ALREADY FIGURED YOU OUT--TELEKINETIC, YOU CONTROL THE BOOMERANGS WITH YOUR MIND--YOU HIDE BEHIND THE SCHTICK SO THAT YOUR TRUE POWERS ARE A SURPRISE.

WON'T WORK ON ME--I'M TOO *SMART* FOR YOU!

YEAH, YEAH.

KEEP TALKING, MATE.

RIO DE JANEIRO.

I DON'T USUALLY GET MY HANDS DIRTY, BUT FOR THIS... I MAKE AN EXCEPTION!

BTOW!!

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?!

DON'T KNOW-- THE WORLD HAS JUST GONE CRAZY. THERE'S A SLEW OF THREATS SPREADING ACROSS THE GLOBE.

THIS SEEMS *COORDINATED.*

OKAY, THAT SOUNDS REALLY BAD.

HOW'S THIS ONE?

MS. POPPER? SHE'S *FINE,* JUST TIRED.

CECIL'S GOT HER USING HER POWERS TO HELP OUT WITH ALL OUR TELEPORTATION. WE HAD TO GET FIFTEEN PEOPLE TO SIX DIFFERENT LOCATIONS. SHE'LL BE BACK AT ONE-HUNDRED PERCENT IN AN HOUR, TOPS.

WAIT A MINUTE--WHY IS KABOOMERANG OUT THERE ON HIS OWN?

WE'RE NOT SPREAD SO THIN WE'VE GOT PEOPLE GOING ON SOLO MISSIONS...

HE'S NOT SOLO. EL CHUPACABRA IS...

...NOT THERE. THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT. I SENT THEM IN. THEY WERE BOTH AT THE EGYPT GUARDIAN STATION TOGETHER.

POPPER, CAN YOU GET ME THERE?

YEAH, I THINK SO. JUST NEEDED A MINUTE.

EGYPT. SATELLITE BASE FOR THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.

UNGHH... MY FREAKIN' HEAD, MAN.

POP!

TAKING A LITTLE HAIR OF THE DOG, CHUPACABRA?

GUH!

BRIT? YOU SCARED THE *HELL* OUT OF ME, MAN.

YOU'RE SCARED, *HUH*? YOU WORTHLESS SACK OF--

HOW DO YOU THINK KABOOMERANG FEELS? YOU THINK MAYBE *HE'S* SCARED OUT THERE FIGHTING ON HIS OWN? YOU'RE ASSIGNED TO THIS STATION--YOU'RE *ON DUTY* FOR CHRIST'S SAKE!

THIS IS *UNACCEPTABLE!*

I'M SORRY, IT'S--MY WIFE...

YOU'RE *PATHETIC.*

GOD... YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW THAT?

DEEP BELOW THE PENTAGON, THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY, LED BY CECIL STEDMAN.

UNITED STATES PENTAGON

Parking in Rear

CECIL!

BRIT? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HE--

CHUPACABRA IS OFF THE TEAM. TAKE HIM OFF THE TEAM BEFORE I *KILL* HIM.

THE MAN WAS SO HUNGOVER HE COULDN'T MAKE A MISSION! WHEN HE *DOES* SHOW UP TO MISSIONS, HE'S STILL DRUNK!

HE'S A DANGER TO HIMSELF, TO CIVILIANS, AND TO THE TEAM! HE'S GOING TO GET SOMEONE HURT! AND WHEN HE DOES, YOU'RE NOT EVEN GOING TO BE ABLE TO HEAR ME SAY "*I TOLD YOU SO*" OVER THE SOUND OF ME BREAKING HIS BONES!

DON'T PUT ME IN THIS POSITION, BRIT. YOU *KNOW* WHAT I OWE THAT MAN. YOU WERE THERE, BRIT.

WE *ALL* OWE HIM.

HE'S ON THIN GODDAMN ICE, CECIL.

YOU NEED TO GET HIM STRAIGHT-- NOW.

UTAH, THE CENTRAL BASE OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.

SO HERE'S THE BAD NEWS, TEAM: NOBODY GETS TO EASE INTO BEING A GUARDIAN.

IT'S NOT LIKE SCHOOL WHERE ON THE FIRST DAY YOU JUST GET THE CLASS SCHEDULE AND PLAY ICE-BREAKING GAMES. SORRY.

UNFORTUNATELY, YOU'VE ALL BEEN THROWN HEADFIRST INTO SOME SERIOUS BUSINESS.

WE'VE KNOWN FOR SOME TIME THAT ORGANIZED SUPER CRIME EXISTS. WE'VE SEEN IT ON A LOCAL LEVEL WITH GUYS LIKE MACHINE HEAD AND HIS CREW, SO WE'VE LET LOCAL GUYS, LIKE THE CREW AT CAPES INCORPORATED, DEAL WITH IT IN THAT WAY.

WE'D HEARD BUZZ THAT WITH THE ASCENSION OF TITAN TO THE LEADERSHIP OF MACHINE HEAD'S OLD OPERATION THAT THE ORGANIZATION WAS SPREADING ITS INFLUENCE NATIONALLY.

BUT ALL THESE ATTACKS ACROSS THE WORLD, HITTING AT THE SAME TIME, EACH ONE OF THESE MONSTERS ACTING LIKE THEY WERE *EXPECTING* US?

THAT'S NO COINCIDENCE. ALL THESE GUYS KILLING INNOCENTS, KICKING OUR BUTTS AND RUNNING OFF, STILL AT LARGE? THAT'S SOMETHING ELSE.

THE BAD GUYS ARE GOING GLOBAL, JUST LIKE US. THE DIFFERENCE IS THEY'RE NOT DOING TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCES TELLING THE WORLD WHAT THEY'RE DOING.

THAT MEANS THEY HAVE US AT A *DISADVANTAGE.*

SO WHEN YOU GET SPLIT UP INTO TEAMS, SPREAD OUT OVER THESE FANCY NEW BASES, IT MEANS YOU WATCH YOUR ASS, AND YOU WATCH YOUR NEIGHBOR'S ASS.

BECAUSE THINGS, I BELIEVE, WERE JUST RAISED TO THE NEXT LEVEL.

THE MOON, SATELLITE BASE FOR THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.

NO, SERIOUSLY. I MISS YOU. I WISH THEY HADN'T SPLIT US UP.

YEAH, RIGHT. LIKE YOU'VE EVEN NOTICED I'M NOT THERE WITH ALL THE FUN YOU'RE HAVING ON THE MOON.

HAH. THIS PLACE KIND OF SUCKS, ACTUALLY. I MEAN, YEAH, IT'S AWESOME THAT YOU'RE ***ON THE MOON***, BUT THE FACILITY IS KIND OF... BLAH.

AND IT'S NOT LIKE YOU GET TO RUN AROUND OUTSIDE ALL THE TIME.

SO YOU WOULD SAY THE PLACE HAS--

JOKE WITHDRAWN.

IF YOU MAKE A JOKE ABOUT THE MOON HAVING NO ATMOSPHERE, I BREAK UP WITH YOU IMMEDIATELY AND FOREVER.

WHERE DO THEY HAVE YOU NOW? YOU AT THE LONDON BASE, OR...?

THIS SIDE UP

NAH, I WAS IN LONDON A FEW DAYS AGO. I'M IN TOKYO NOW, WHICH IS PROBABLY MORE LIKE BEING ON ANOTHER PLANET THAN EVEN THE MOON BASE.

HOW DOES EVERYONE SEEM TO BE GETTING ALONG AS FAR AS YOU CAN TELL?

WELL, EVERY GROUP IS DIFFERENT, BUT--

--THINGS ARE PRETTY ***TENSE*** HERE.

OF COURSE, EVERYWHERE ELSE THE NEW MEMBERS SEEM TO BE GETTING ALONG PRETTY WELL--

"--MAYBE A LITTLE TOO WELL."

GIRL, YOU *KNOW* I'M TAKEN.

JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS, LOVE. BRIT SAID TO WATCH YOUR NEIGHBOR'S ASS.

LONDON, ENGLAND.

UTAH.

YOU LETTING ME WIN, *ROOKIE?*

SIR, YOU ARE A GREAT HERO OF GOOD REPUTATION WHO HONORS ME TO EVEN--

PLAY FOR REAL, NEWBIE.

BOO-YAH!

I WIN!

EGYPT.

UH, MISTER... TIGER? SIR? WOULD YOU LIKE TO...

AHEM.

AH. HMM. NEVERMIND.

LET'S SEE...DO YOU WANT THE CHICKEN AND BEEF CUTS IN GRAVY?

NO, OF COURSE. YOU ARE A FRENCHMAN AND HAVE A VERY REFINED PALATE. I WILL GET YOU THE VEAL, BARLEY AND AVOCADO.

WAOUH! WAOUH!

VAF!

YEAH, WE'RE GETTING ALONG HERE PRETTY WELL.

YOU PLAY VERY WELL FOR SUCH A LITTLE GIRL.

ACCORDING TO SOCIAL CONVENTION, I POLITELY ACCEPT YOUR WELL-INTENTIONED CONDESCENSION.

CHECK.

BUT IT'S STILL PRETTY BOR--

WEEEOOOO! WEEEOOOO!

HEY, WE GOT AN ACTION ALARM! YOUR STATION, TOO? MAYBE I'LL SEE YOU SOONER THAN WE THOUGHT!

IT TOOK YEARS--***YEARS*** OF RESEARCH AND PLANNING TO EVEN ***FIND*** THE FABLED LAND OF AMAZONIA!

YEARS OF TRAINING AND STRATEGIZING TO TAKE OVER THAT LAND AND ALL ITS ARMIES! BUT I DID IT AND NOW ***I'M BACK!***

BACK TO THE PLACE THE WOMAN I LOVED SPURNED HER HERITAGE FOR, THAT SHE ABANDONED THE PARADISE OF THE AMAZONS FOR!

THE PLACE THAT CHEWED HER UP AND SPIT HER OUT, LEAVING ONLY HER ***BLOODY CORPSE*** AS THANKS FOR ALL THE TIMES SHE SAVED IT!

BUT NO MORE! BECAUSE THE ***NEW WAR WOMAN*** HAS COME BACK TO ***TAKE REVENGE ON THE WORLD OF MEN!***

YAP, YAP, YAP.

ATTACK!

ALL RIGHT, TEAM--GO TIME!

JAPANDROID, YOU'RE ON RESCUE AND EVAC! GET THESE WOUNDED CIVILIANS OUT OF HERE AND LET US BRAWLERS GET DOWN TO BUSINESS!

ACKNOWLEDGED.

KRAKA-BOOM!!

KRAK!

CHUPACABRA!

DAMMIT, THAT GUY NEEDS TO GET HIS HEAD IN THE GAME *NOW*, HE'S USELESS.

YEAH, I *BET*.

HE SAID HE WAS NOT FEELING VERY WELL.

AH, YES. THE ONE WHO MOCKED ME. I NOTICE YOU'VE BEEN IGNORING ME IN THIS FIGHT.

DO YOU THINK I'M LESS OF A THREAT THAN THESE MINDLESS HUNKS OF ROCK, JUST BECAUSE THEY LOOK LIKE *MEN?*

NO, LITTLE MAN! *I'M* THE ONE IN CONTROL OF *THEM!*

SMACK!

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

SHOOT AT ME ALL YOU WANT, *COWARDS!* YOU CAN'T STOP ME!

PRIME DIRECTIVE: "RESCUE AND EVAC"-- SUCCESSFULLY EXECUTED.

COIN-FIRING RIFLES OUT OF PARKING METERS, *HUH?* NICE WORK, ROOKIE. WOW.

THESE GUYS ARE UNBELIEVABLE! HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP, CAST IRON?

THE ENEMY IS FORMIDABLE, YES. BUT I SHALL PERSEVERE.

HMM. LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE IS BACK FOR ROUND TWO.

KRAK!

GUH!

COME ON, YOU-- YOU BASTARD!

I'VE FOUGHT-- FOUGHT TOUGHER THAN-- YOU!

YOU.

YOU'VE WRONGED A WOMAN AND YOUR HEART IS FULL OF LOATHING FOR HER.

YES, I--

HOW-- HOW DID YOU KNOW?

YOU STINK OF IT. IT SEEPS FROM YOUR PORES, LIKE THE ALCOHOL YOU DROWN YOURSELF IN TO NUMB YOUR PAIN.

MY PLEASURE!

FOR YOUR CRIMES AGAINST WOMANKIND, I SENTENCE YOU TO DEATH.

YES! YES, I--

PLEASE--

DO IT. END THIS MISERY.

CHUPACABRA!

NO! LEAVE--

GAAUGH!

CLANKK!

CAST IRON!

DON'T... DON'T PULL IT OUT. THAT WILL ONLY... MAKE IT... WOR...

HANG ON, BUDDY. YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT. PERSEVERE, JUST LIKE YOU SAID.

COUNT YOUR LOSSES, PIGS.

I CLAIM THIS VICTORY IN THE NAME OF AMAZONIA. WE WILL MEET AGAIN.

CECIL! WE'VE GOT A MAN DOWN!

I NEED YOU TO POP IN A MED TEAM-- STAT!

POP!

DAMMIT!

GET OVER HERE--HE'S FADING FAST!

BRIT, I--

YOU BETTER HOPE HE SURVIVES, YOU WORTHLESS DRUNK!

HIS BLOOD IS ON YOUR HANDS.

"THIS IS THE WORST CASE SCENARIO."

UNITED STATES PENTAGON

Parking in Rear

IF YOU TAKE EVERY POSSIBILITY, EVERY VARIABLE, AND YOU FIGURE OUT THE WORST POSSIBLE THING THAT COULD HAPPEN, THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE ON OUR HANDS RIGHT NOW.

THEN THEY'RE ORGANIZED?

YOU BET YOUR ASS THEY'RE ORGANIZED!

THIS ISN'T JUST SOME FLUKE. IT'S NO COINCIDENCE THAT THESE SAME TACTICS ARE BEING USED AGAIN AND AGAIN--JUMP IN, DO DAMAGE, TAKE LIVES--NOW *OUR OWN PEOPLE'S LIVES*--AND JUMP OUT.

ARE THEY TRYING TO *TELL* US SOMETHING?

ARE THE RUMORS TRUE?

THE RUMORS ARE TRUE AND THEN SOME.

A VERY CLEAR MESSAGE WAS SENT TODAY, DONALD: *THE ORDER* IS VERY, *VERY* REAL--

--AND NOT EVEN THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE CAN STOP THEM.

GUARDING THE GLOBE

WRITE US AT: INVINCIBLE@FUNKOTRON.COM

What an issue!

It's your least favorite editor around town, Sina Grace, excited to bring you another pulse-pounding issue of Guarding the Globe!

You've all been patient fans as we've been working to bring the book out. The long and short of it truly is that these artists need a little more time to give 110% of their best to the book. When we come back for a second round, we'll be sure to allow ourselves a lot more lead time. That way there won't be any confusion about why readers aren't getting their needed dosage of Guarding the Globe.

Now for some letters. If you've got any opinions on the book either way, please write in. We love mail, especially Robert.

Who will be responding in italics, as always. -Robert

Hey team,

It strikes me that I came off pretty Canadian in my last letter to your fine publication. Not only did I spell colour the way that I spell colour, but I compared the art to a candy that I'm pretty sure isn't available in the U.S. of A. (Swedish Berries, that is....if you've never had them, you're missing out). Not that it's bad that I came off as Canadian, since I am.

Yeah, now start talking about your low crime rates, awesome bands, and cold winters and you'll basically be advertising the land of maple syrup.

Anyway, what an issue. I look forward to seeing this play out, especially since we've been promised a shorter wait until the next issue, and the cover for #4 alone is enough to bring me back. I've got to say, this book is reminding me more and more of recent Grant Morrison stuff (minus the crazy) in its stylistic leanings towards campy comics of the past (I mean that in the most sincerely positive way possible). The team IS shaping up shapily, the villains ARE plotting unbeknownst to our shapely team, not to mention the appearances of Gorgg, smut, and inkers galore.

About the inking: it's too bad you got left kind of high and dry, but as a reader it's interesting to see how different inkers bring different elements into play with the same art. Especially since Ransom Getty did a bit of it himself (I always like to see how artists ink themselves....but I don't want to see Octoboss ink himself). I look forward to your future stability, gents.

Man, you're pretty funny! Issue three was a lot of fun to see how each inker brought their touch to Ransom, and they all did some cool stuff. I've got to say we're pretty proud of the work Russell put into this issue, wouldn't you agree?

I certainly would. Russell is the man!

I also noticed Mr. Kirkman's comment about only having you (Sina Grace) for "the year". If this is indeed the case, and if there is future editing and assistance required post-Grace, allow me to prematurely suggest myself. I already edit myself (I know that Octopi don't emit ink, but I will always sacrifice accuracy for humour's sake). I will do it: for free. Seriously. Ok, well, for free comics.

I'll even give you some delicious Swedish Berries.

Brendan Flaherty
Saskatoon, CANADA

Damn Brendan, the dirt over my grave isn't even settled yet and you're already going for my job. Thanks. After everything I do for you... you think it's easy to come up with all these jokes? Don't even get me started on the foot massages.

You know what: send over those Swedish Berries for hurting my feelings!

Any reference to Sina leaving/quitting/or getting fired is really just wishful thinking on my part. As far as I know, the esteemed Mr. Grace is not going anywhere. Sadly.

Oh, I'm just kidding, Sina... I hope you never leave!

Robert,

Just wanted to say thanks for the awesome run on Invincible. Because of that I have had to go and find all of your other books. So far I have obtained Brit (prestige((1 – 3)) and 1 – 12); Tech Jacket, all of Invincible and I am getting Guardians of the Globe; Astounding Wolf – Man, I have Super Dinosaur on my pull list. I am going to have ask you to quit writing so my money can grow again. By the way just kidding. Thanks for the books.

Thanks,

Ryan Conrade

We're glad that you're kidding about Robert quitting writing, because he's got so many more surprises for you in 2011!

Don't I know it!

While we're on the subject of checklist... CAPES, Battle Pope, and all that Marvel stuff.

You can skip over some of that Marvel stuff... just kidding, it's all amazing!

Hey Kirkman and Co.!

You know how Chris Claremont wrote real life reporter Neal Conan into X-Men back in the eighties? Which NPR personality would YOU write into Guardians? Ira Glass interviewing Brit for This American Life? Kaboomerang on Fresh Air?

Best, Justin Porter Stephens
President of the Ransom Getty Fan Club

In an attempt to not try and make everything about me, I'm leaving this all up to Captain Kirkman.

(Robert, if you're having trouble just say that Steve Inskeep and Renee Montagne would be the only people who could handle your Guardians)

Steve Inskeep and Renee Montagne are the only people who could handle my Guardians (thanks, Sina).

Is Rush Limbaugh on NPR? Bad joke, I know...

Aaand- scene.

Please write in next time and address your letters to Brendan Flaherty, the NEW editor of Guarding the Globe. He'll be so proud to jump on, because the pages I've seen so far are amazeballs.

And, while we're on the subject of awesomeness and the wonderful things out of the Skybound house, check out our Skybound shop! Find everything you need from cool shirts, books, and exclusive items, to boot!

www.skyboundent.com/shop

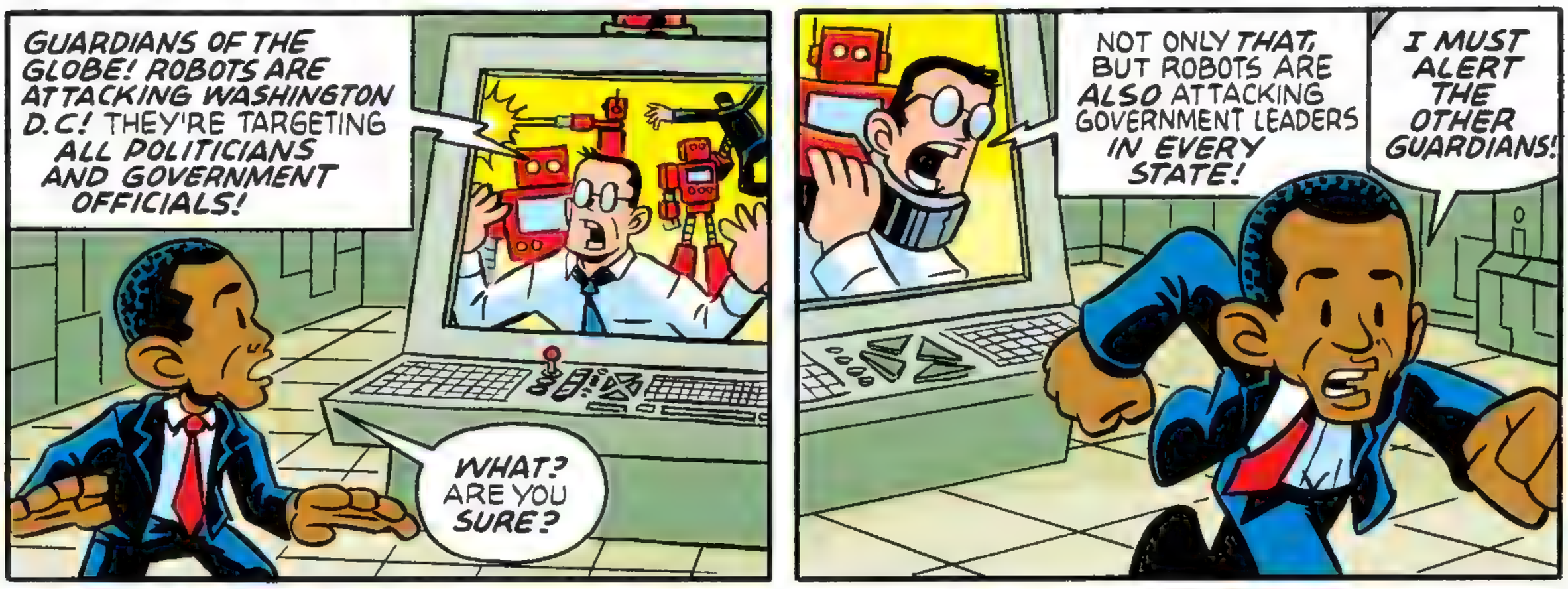
TTYL,
-Sina Grace

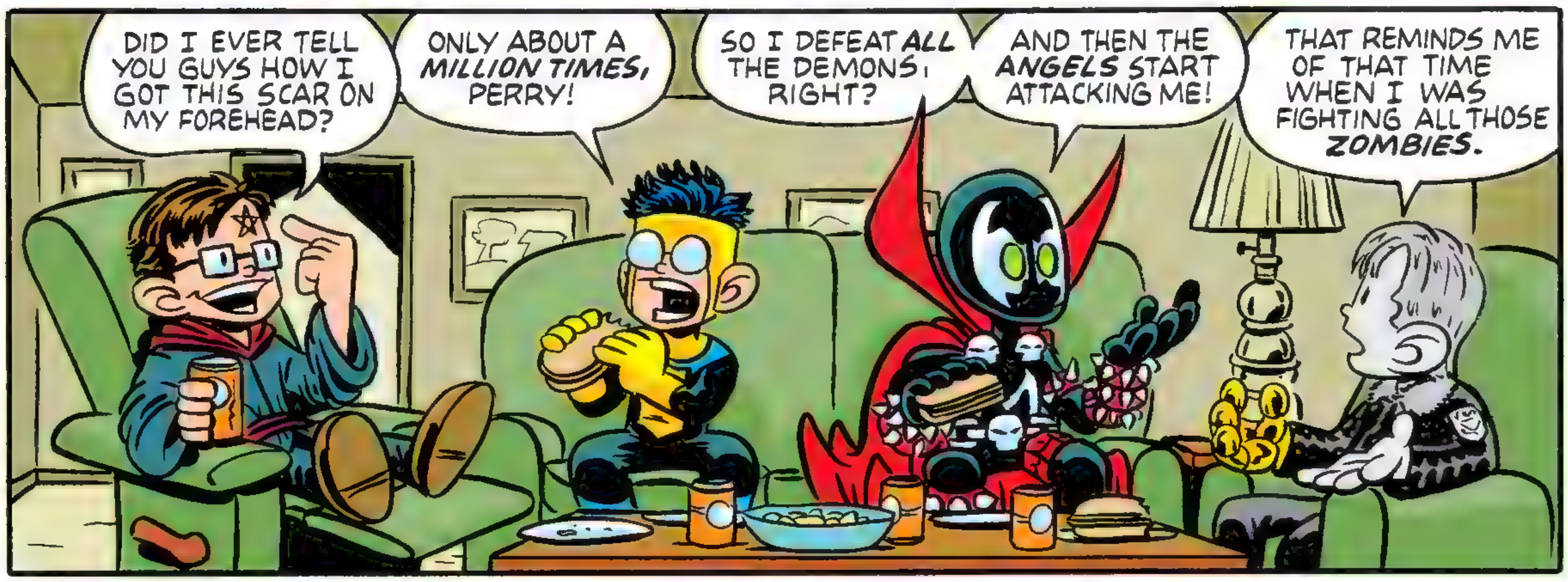
Rock over London, Rock on Chicago! Beef, it's what's for dinner!

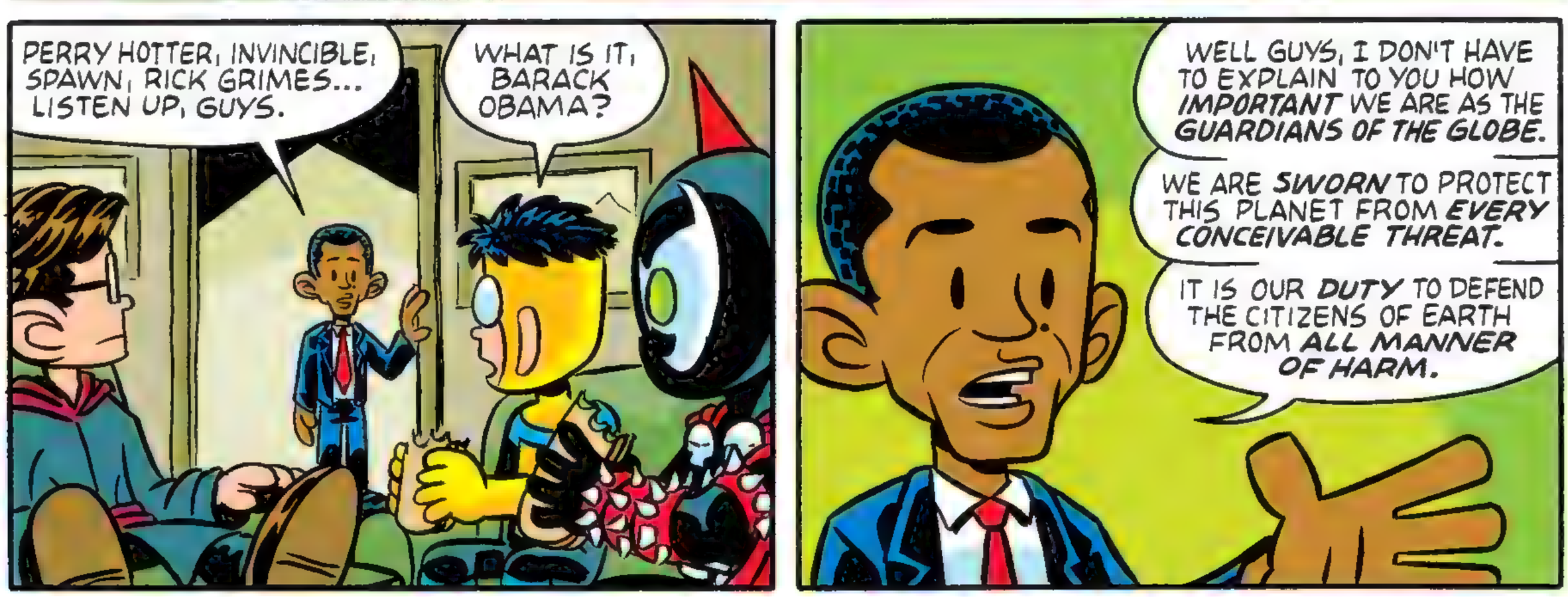
-Robert Kirkman

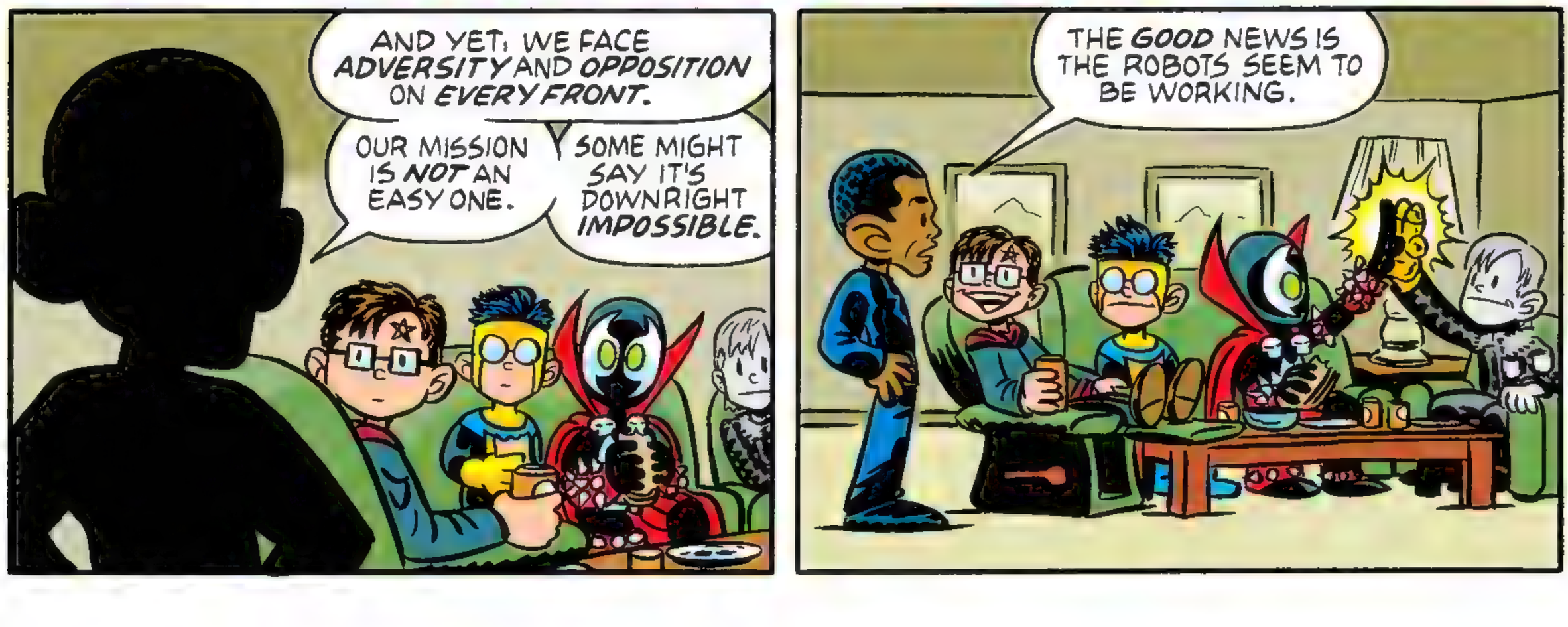
GUARDIAN GAGS

by Chris Giarrusso
www.chrisGcomics.com


GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE! ROBOTS ARE ATTACKING WASHINGTON D.C! THEY'RE TARGETING ALL POLITICIANS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS!
WHAT? ARE YOU SURE?
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT ROBOTS ARE ALSO ATTACKING GOVERNMENT LEADERS IN EVERY STATE!
I MUST ALERT THE OTHER GUARDIANS!


DID I EVER TELL YOU GUYS HOW I GOT THIS SCAR ON MY FOREHEAD?
ONLY ABOUT A MILLION TIMES, PERRY!
SO I DEFEAT ALL THE DEMONS, RIGHT?
AND THEN THE ANGELS START ATTACKING ME!
THAT REMINDS ME OF THAT TIME WHEN I WAS FIGHTING ALL THOSE ZOMBIES.


PERRY HOTTER, INVINCIBLE, SPAWN, RICK GRIMES... LISTEN UP, GUYS.
WHAT IS IT, BARACK OBAMA?
WELL GUYS, I DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO YOU HOW IMPORTANT WE ARE AS THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.
WE ARE SWORN TO PROTECT THIS PLANET FROM EVERY CONCEIVABLE THREAT.
IT IS OUR DUTY TO DEFEND THE CITIZENS OF EARTH FROM ALL MANNER OF HARM.


AND YET, WE FACE ADVERSITY AND OPPOSITION ON EVERY FRONT.
OUR MISSION IS NOT AN EASY ONE.
SOME MIGHT SAY IT'S DOWNRIGHT IMPOSSIBLE.
THE GOOD NEWS IS THE ROBOTS SEEM TO BE WORKING.

SKYBOUND™

SHOP

skyboundent.com/shop

Come see what original looks like.

'GRAVE DIGGER' BLACK HOODIE

ANDREA FOR SKYBOUND

WE'VE GOT AN ARRAY OF FRESH TWD ITEMS INOUR CLOTHING STORE - AND MORE EXCLUSIVES ON THE WAY!

SEE MORE >

BUCKETS • KNITS • BALLCAPS

SEE MORE >

COLLECTIBLES & ACCESSORIES

SHOW YOUR LOVE OF THE DEAD!

CARL FOR SKYBOUND

SEE MORE >

SEE MORE >

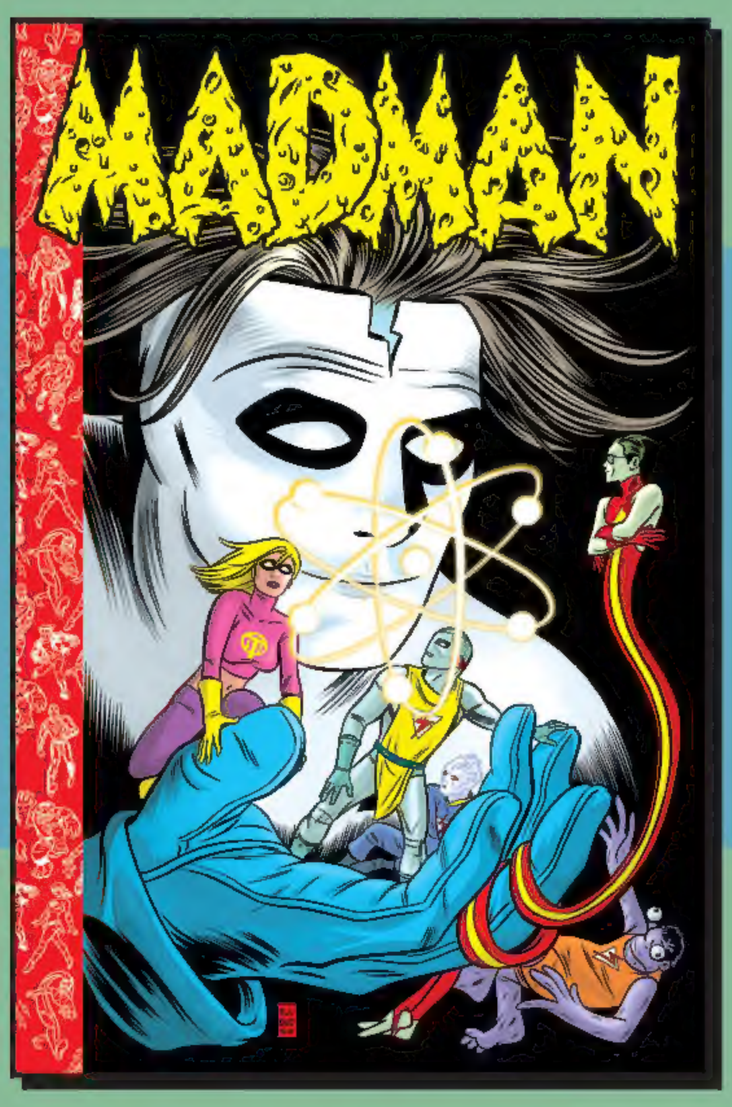
original.

ACCESSORIES BOOKS CLOTHING COLLECTIBLES EXCLUSIVES

MARCH 2011

CARBON GREY #1

To a noble family twins are born: Mathilde and Giselle, the Sisters Grey. For generations the Sisters have protected and counseled the Kaiser, ruler of Mitteleuropa. But this is a different time. At the birth of the industrial age a great war is raging. When the Kaiser is assassinated, Giselle is accused. Pursued by her sisters and hunted by the enemy, Giselle must unravel the prophecy of the Carbon Grey before history itself is rewritten.



MADMAN ATOMICA HC

This is the big one! Hugemongous! The perfect companion to the now classic MADMAN GARGANTUA collection, this over-sized hard cover collection contains the complete MADMAN ATOMIC COMICS series, THE ATOMICS series, and the many now out-of-print one-shots, plus a huge pile of extras, pin-ups, and rarities! This classy tome will energize bookshelves and coffee tables the world over!

SKULLKICKERS VOL. 1: 1000 OPAS and a DEAD BODY TP

Two nameless mercenaries are mashing monsters and making a name for themselves. Image's new hit fantasy action-comedy series has gone through multiple printings of each issue released so far and is getting rave reviews from readers and critics alike. Pick up the first collection and find out what all the excitement is all about!

BUT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ELSE... ART OF ROB SCHRAB

Rob Schrab, the mad genius behind Scud the Disposable Assassin, offers fans this collection of concept sketches from his many sci-fi, horror and animation projects in TV/film that never saw the light of day. Some were abandoned, some are coming soon, but all are here to enjoy. From the co-creator of Monster House and The Sarah Silverman Program.

CHECKLIST

- [ ] 27 #4 (of 4)
- [ ] ARTIFACTS #6
- [ ] BUT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ELSE... ART OF ROB SCHRAB HC
- [ ] BUTCHER BAKER THE RIGHTEOUS MAKER#1
- [ ] CARBON GREY #1
- [ ] CHEW #17
- [ ] CHEW SCRIPT BOOK
- [ ] DAOMU #2
- [ ] DARKNESS #90
- [ ] ECHOES #4 (of 5)
- [ ] FIREBREATHER HOLMGANG #2
- [ ] HACK/SLASH #2
- [ ] HALCYON #4
- [ ] HAUNT #14
- [ ] HERCULIAN #1
- [ ] INTREPIDS #1
- [ ] INVINCIBLE #78
- [ ] LORNA RELIC WRANGLER one-shot
- [ ] MARINEMAN #4
- [ ] MEMOIR #3 (of 6)
- [ ] MORNING GLORIES #8
- [ ] PROOF ENDANGERED #4
- [ ] SAVAGE DRAGON #170
- [ ] SKULLKICKERS VOL. 1 : 1000 OPAS AND A DEAD BODY TP
- [ ] SPAWN #204
- [ ] THE LI'L DEPRESSED BOY #2
- [ ] UNDYING LOVE
- [ ] THE WALKING DEAD #82
- [ ] WHO IS JAKE ELLIS #3
- [ ] WITCHBLADE #143

The Third Degree: RICHARD STARKINGS

IMAGE COMICS' MONTHLY Q&A SESSION

Richard Starkings has moved and shaken the comic book industry from London to New York and Los Angeles... referred by some as Mister Comicraft, he has written, drawn, coloured, lettered, edited published and/or read just about every comic book out there. Buy him a crêpe.

What are you working on right now?
ELEPHANTMEN #30 and *ELEPHANTMEN: MAN AND ELEPHANTMAN* with Axel Medellin; *ENEMY SPECIES* with Boo Cook and an issue by Shaky Kane!

What's the best part of your job?
Right now, working on the treatment for the *ELEPHANTMEN* movie with producer Janet Zucker. I'm learning a lot, and talking about *ELEPHANTMEN* for the Big Screen gives me "Pinch me, I must be dreaming," moments...

What's the worst part of your job?
Can't think of one -- did I mention I work in comics?

How did you first discover comics?
I got hooked on a weekly comic called *COUNTDOWN*, which featured comics based on TV shows such as *DOCTOR WHO*, *UFO*, *STINGRAY* and *THUNDERBIRDS*. The art was gorgeous and the stories were often better than the episodes on TV. Not long after that Marvel UK started publishing *THE MIGHTY WORLD OF MARVEL* and I got caught up on all the major Marvel books by following that for some 300 issues. My oldest brother had a huge collection of Marvels and DCs so during school holidays I would stay with him and devour hundred issues runs of *AMAZING SPIDER-MAN*, back when it really was an amazing comic.

If you weren't working in comics, what would you be doing?
Figuring out how to get a job in comics...

What's the strangest thing a fan has ever said to you?
I was asked to draw *MIGHTY MOUSE* sitting on the toilet.

What are you most likely to complain to an editor about?
I'm not likely to complain -- I'm just not problem oriented; I'm solution oriented.

Who is the biggest influence on your work?
I'd have to say that John Wagner and Pat Mills are the writers and editors who clearly influenced me the most. *2000AD* was hugely important to me as a teenager and then as a professional working in British comics in the '80s.

What is the single work of which you're most proud?
ELEPHANTMEN #1. I wanted to write a single issue that told you everything you needed to know about the series in 22 pages and I'm still astounded today that I accomplished that.

Own up to one of your guilty pleasures.
DOCTOR WHO. Dalek toys. Is that two?

What was the last comic book you bought?
Um, hmmm... oh, *KING CITY #12* by Brandon Graham.

Who would play you in a movie about your life?
David Tennant. HEY! I used to be skinny and had hair on my head!

Pick three things you couldn't live without.
Chocolate. Crepes. Comics.

What's the strangest thing you have in your house?
Probably the wireframe, masking tape and vinyl paint sculpture of Elephantman Ebony Hide's head, by Jonathan La Mantia, that glowers at visitors in the garden...

When was the last time you laughed out loud?
This evening -- watching the king in *THE KING'S SPEECH* swear.

What music are you listening to these days?
The *BLADE RUNNER* soundtrack. The *127 HOURS* soundtrack. The Beautiful South and the Pet Shop Boys. Agnes Obel, Laura Veirs. Lady Gaga. The Duckworth Lewis Method. Moby.

What is your favorite film of all time?
BLADE RUNNER.

Who is your best friend?
My family. Can't pick one.

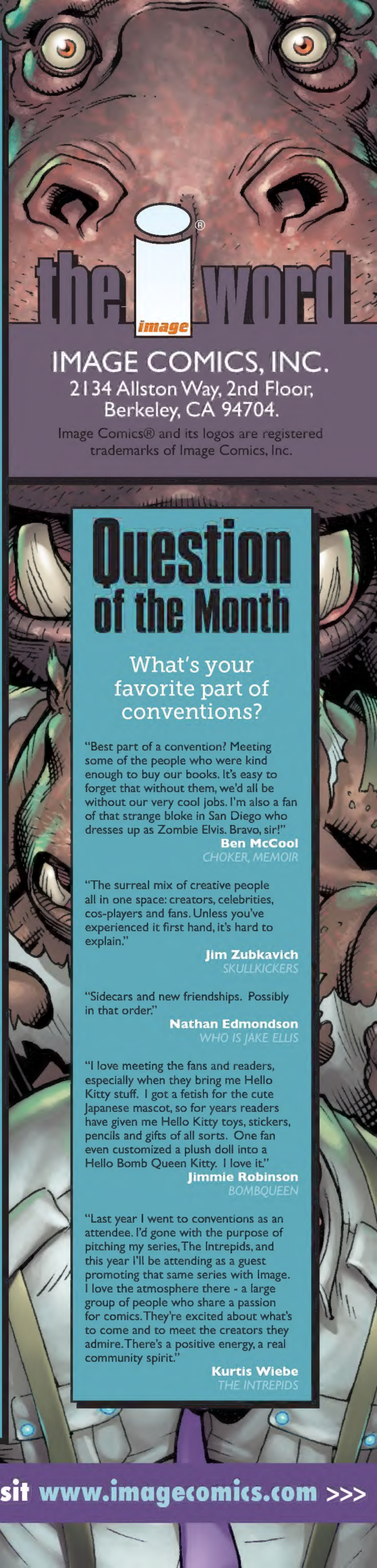
What is the worst advice you've ever received?
Give up.

When was the last time you were truly frightened?
4:31 am, Monday, January 17, 1994

Name someone you really admire and explain why.
Well, I have to say that I admire the President of the Buddhist lay organization I belong to, Daisaku Ikeda. Just read ONE of his peace proposals.

What would you like to see happen in comics in the next 12 months?
More top creators bringing their own creations to Image Comics!

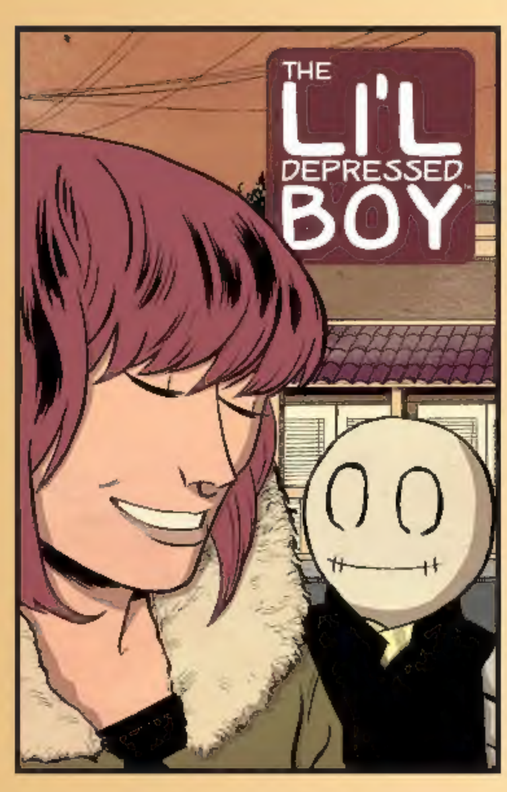
What the world needs now is...
I'm not sure what the world needs, but can someone in England ship me a box of Jacob's Cream Crackers, Marmite Granola Bars and Raisin and Biscuit Milky Bars?


the image word
image
IMAGE COMICS, INC.
2134 Allston Way, 2nd Floor,
Berkeley, CA 94704.
Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc.
Question of the Month
What's your favorite part of conventions?
"Best part of a convention? Meeting some of the people who were kind enough to buy our books. It's easy to forget that without them, we'd all be without our very cool jobs. I'm also a fan of that strange bloke in San Diego who dresses up as Zombie Elvis. Bravo, sir!"
Ben McCool
CHOKER, MEMOIR
"The surreal mix of creative people all in one space: creators, celebrities, cos-players and fans. Unless you've experienced it first hand, it's hard to explain."
Jim Zubkavich
SKULLKICKERS
"Sidecars and new friendships. Possibly in that order."
Nathan Edmondson
WHO IS JAKE ELLIS
"I love meeting the fans and readers, especially when they bring me Hello Kitty stuff. I got a fetish for the cute Japanese mascot, so for years readers have given me Hello Kitty toys, stickers, pencils and gifts of all sorts. One fan even customized a plush doll into a Hello Bomb Queen Kitty. I love it."
Jimmie Robinson
BOMBQUEEN
"Last year I went to conventions as an attendee. I'd gone with the purpose of pitching my series, The Intrepids, and this year I'll be attending as a guest promoting that same series with Image. I love the atmosphere there - a large group of people who share a passion for comics. They're excited about what's to come and to meet the creators they admire. There's a positive energy, a real community spirit."
Kurtis Wiebe
THE INTREPIDS

For the latest Image Comics news and previews, visit www.imagecomics.com >>>

DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE!

ELEPHANTMEN#30
ON SALE NOW!



LI'LDEPRESSEDBOY#2
ON SALE NOW!

INVINCIBLE #78
ONSALENEXTWEEK!

GUARDING THE GLOBE #5
ON SALE APRIL 2011